

**DATA STRUCTURE, METHODS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS  
FOR STORING TEXT DATA STRINGS USED TO DISPLAY TEXT  
INFORMATION ON A DISPLAY TERMINAL**

5                   **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

          The present application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application Serial  
No. 60/216,901 entitled SYSTEMS, METHODS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM  
PRODUCTS FOR MANAGING THE DISPLAY OF INFORMATION OUTPUT BY A  
COMPUTER PROGRAM filed July 7, 2000, the contents of which are incorporated  
10    herein by reference.

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

          The present invention relates generally to the display of text data from a computer  
program on a display terminal. More particularly, the present invention relates to a data  
15    structure that maintains the text data used by the computer program in an addressable  
form. To display text, the computer program provides a unique ID number, called a  
token, which allows the desired text data to be located in the data structure. Based on  
the token, a display management module retrieves and displays the text data associated  
with the token on the display terminal.

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

          Many computer programs operate in conjunction with a display terminal to  
provide information to the user of the computer program concerning the operation of the  
computer program and to query the user for input of information. For example, Basic  
25    Input/Output System (BIOS) software is used in many computer systems to initialize  
operation of the computer system when it is either powered on or is reset. The BIOS  
software typically performs a power on system test (POST) that checks the status of  
components of the computer system to determine whether certain peripherals are  
installed. The BIOS software also ascertains the amount of memory resources the  
30    computer system has, performs diagnostic testing on the computer components and  
peripherals, and installs drivers for interacting with the peripherals. Further, the BIOS  
software also includes a setup mode that allows the user to alter the configuration of

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some of the parameters of the BIOS software.

Importantly, during POST, as the BIOS software initializes the components and peripherals and performs system checks, information concerning these operations is displayed to the user. This information allows the user or computer support personnel to determine whether all of the computer components and peripherals are properly installed and whether there are errors associated with these components and peripherals. Further, in the setup mode, the parameters of the BIOS software are displayed to the user so that the user may confirm or alter these parameters. Additionally, the BIOS software may display logos associated with the developer of the BIOS software and/or the owner of the computer system. Further, the BIOS software may display progress bars and boxes.

In conventional computer programs, such as BIOS software, the text and graphical data used for displaying information on the display terminal is typically located within the source code of the computer program. For example, text information for displaying text data strings on the display terminal is typically embedded in the source code. Further, graphical data for logos and progress bars is also embedded in the source code. The location of the text and graphical information in the source code is problematic for many reasons.

For instance, the addition of the text and graphical data in the source code increases the overall size of the code. The display of text and graphical data requires not only the character codes for the data but also font, color, and various other attributes associated with the format in which the data is displayed.

Further, and more importantly, the embedding of the text and graphical data in the source code makes updating of the text and graphics displayed by the computer program much more difficult. For example, an important limitation to the export of most computer systems and computer programs to other countries is the translation of the outputs displayed to the user in a language that is understandable to the user of the computer system or computer program. As many software programs embed the textual and graphical information in the source code of the computer program, to modify the program to display the information in the proper language for the user, the source code must be reprogrammed with the appropriate text and graphics and recompiled. Additionally, besides the effort of rewriting the source code, multiple copies of the

modified source code must be maintained for each of the languages that the source code has been rewritten. This becomes burdensome as updates to the source code must be performed for each language version of the source code, and each version of the source code must be maintained in storage. For large-scale systems involving millions of lines of code and modules, the maintenance, updating, and storage requirements for all of the different language versions of the code may be enormous.

An additional problem is that computer programs, such as BIOS software, typically display graphical information such as boxes, progress bars, and logos. The code for these graphics is also typically embedded in the source code. As such, changes to the graphic displays or logos also require rewriting of the source code. This creates problems for customization of the output displays. Specifically, it may be advantageous to display different graphics for different customers. For example, some customers may wish to include their logos in the display as the computer program operates.

Similarly, the language data is typically embedded in the source code of the computer program along with a specific font for displaying the text. As such, desired changes of the font of either particular text or all of the text in the source code requires reprogramming and recompiling of the source code.

In addition to the problems associated embedding the text and graphical data in the source code of the program is the added problem that some languages use graphical characters, as opposed to ASCII characters. The Asian language of Kanji, for example, includes graphical characters that require a double byte character set (DBCS) for display. These graphical characters are typically data storage intensive. As such, embedding DBCS characters and their associated font data in the source code of the computer program can dramatically increase the overall size of the program.

In addition to the problems associated with storage and accessibility of text and graphical data, there are also problems associated with redirection of displayed information to a remote display. Specifically, there are many applications in which it is advantageous to redirect the displayed information to a terminal other than the terminal associated with the computer system. Additionally, in some instances, it is advantageous to redirect the display to a different location such that the user may interact with the computer without requiring the user to be physically located proximate to the computer

system.

Although display redirection is advantageous, there are some drawbacks. Specifically, the communication link between the computer system and the remote display may be any of a number of different mechanisms. For example, the communication link may be either a serial port, parallel port, network port, etc. In light of this, many conventional computer programs are programmed to include the proper protocol for transmitting the information to the remote display using one of these data communication formats. As such, there must be either separate versions of the program each having code embedded in the source code or different modules embedded in the source code for transmitting the information in the proper communication format. As such, changes in the code for transmitting the display information must be implemented by altering the source code associated with the program, which can again become burdensome.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

As set forth below, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention overcome many of the deficiencies identified with the display of information from a computer program on a display terminal. In particular, the present invention provides systems, methods, and computer program products for managing the display output of computer programs. Further, the present invention provides data structure, methods, and computer program products for storing data strings used by a display management module to display information on a display terminal. Additionally, the present invention provides systems, methods, and computer program products for redirecting the display of information from a computer program to a remote display terminal.

Specifically, in one embodiment, the present invention provides a system containing a display management module that interfaces with the computer program and the display terminal. The display management module is an intermediate module that interprets display commands from the computer program and controls the display to output the desired information. The system further includes data modules stored on a computer-readable medium containing text and graphical data used by the computer

program to display information on the display terminal. Individual 16 bit identification numbers called tokens are associated with the text strings located in the data modules.

In this embodiment, the source code for the computer program includes the tokens associated with the data strings stored in the language modules, instead of the associated data strings themselves. In operation, when the computer program wishes to display information on the display terminal, the computer program transmits the token associated with the data string to the display management module. The display management module retrieves the data string associated with the token and also any associated font data. Using the data string and the font data, the display management module displays the information on the display terminal.

Advantageously, because the data strings are tokenized and stored in a computer-readable medium separate from the source code of the computer program, these data strings can be easily updated without requiring reprogramming of the source code. Thus, if a software developer wishes to change the text of the message displayed to the user, or the logo, or the text box displayed to the user, the developer need only change the data string in the appropriate module and not reprogram the source code associated with the computer program. Further, because the font data associated with each character of the data strings is stored in the font and language modules, as opposed to the source code of the computer program, the overall size of the source code of the computer program is reduced.

Additionally, the display management module may also be used to change the language with which data strings are displayed. Specifically, the display management module may operate in conjunction with a plurality of language data modules, where each language data module includes data strings representing the language data translated into a selected language. The system of this embodiment further includes a main language module header stored on a computer-readable medium and associated with the display management module. The main language module header includes individual pointers indicating the location in a computer-readable storage medium in which each language data module is located.

In operation, to display a data string in a selected language, the display management module receives a token and an indication of the desired language. The

display management module accesses the main language module header and retrieves the pointer associated with the language data module corresponding to the desired language. Further, the display management module, using the pointer, accesses the language data module, retrieves the data string associated with the token, and displays the data string on the display terminal in the desired language.

In addition to providing systems, methods, and computer program products for managing the display of information on a display terminal, the present invention also provides data structure, methods, and computer program products for storing data strings used by a display management module to display information on a display terminal.

Specifically, the data structure of the present invention includes the data strings used by the computer program to display information on a display terminal. The data strings are stored in the data structure and are associated with unique tokens located in the computer program. The data strings are accessed by the display management module based on the tokens and used for display. As discussed above, by placing the data strings in individual data modules, as opposed to embedding them in the computer program, the data strings are accessible for updating and alteration.

Specifically, in one embodiment, the present invention provides a data structure stored on a computer-readable medium having a string data area that includes data strings representing language data. Each character of each data string is a character selected from the group consisting of standard ASCII, extended ASCII, and double byte characters (DBCS). The characters in a data string that are standard ASCII (less than code 80 hexadecimal) or extended ASCII (codes greater than or equal to 80 hexadecimal) with codes less than a predetermined escape code are stored by their ASCII representations in the string data area. Extended ASCII characters having characters codes greater than or equal to the escape code are stored as two-byte codes with the ASCII character code preceded by the escape code. Further, the double byte characters are encoded sequentially as two-byte codes whose starting value is found by taking the value one greater than the escape code and making the next byte zero. For example, if the escape code is selected to be 0E0 hexadecimal then the first DBCS character code would be 0E100, and the 16 bit values may therefore be incremented sequentially from 0E101 to 0FFFF hexadecimal.

In order to differentiate between codes used for DBCS characters and those used for extended ASCII, the extended ASCII characters must be preceded by the escape code. For example, when processed byte by byte, the code 0E5h encountered by itself in the string data would indicate the start of a 16-bit DBCS character code, such that 0E5 and the following byte would represent the code. In order to represent the actual extended ASCII character of 0E5 hexadecimal, it would be preceded by the escape code, as in 0E0E5. This encoding scheme therefore allows all 256 ASCII codes, as well as a range of 16 bit DBCS character codes to coexist within and be extracted from the string data. Further, the data structure includes an extended ASCII font data area stored on a computer-readable medium for storing font data related to extended ASCII characters that are not displayable using standard ASCII characters from the font module, and a double byte character font data area stored on a computer-readable medium for storing font data related to characters that are double byte characters.

In this embodiment of the present invention, to display a data string, the display management module receives the specific token associated with the data string to be displayed and a command to display the data string from the computer program. Based on the token, the display management module accesses the location in the string data area where the data string associated with the token is located. Using the rules set by the encoding scheme, the display management module interprets the code stored for each character and sequentially displays each character of the data string on the display terminal.

The above described data structure is advantageous for many reasons. Specifically, as discussed, the data structure may include ASCII, extended ASCII, and DBCS characters. As such, the data structure may be designed to contain data strings for not only languages that require textual representations in ASCII and extended ASCII characters, but also for languages, such as Kanji, that require graphical characters that are displayed using DBCS characters. Importantly, the individual characters of each data string are encoded in the data structure, such that storage for the data structure is minimized, but contains all of the needed characters for displaying the data strings in the desired language.

Specifically, because there are 256 standard and extended ASCII characters and 65,536 possible DBCS characters, it is typically not feasible to encode all of the possible characters in the data structure. For this reason, in one embodiment, the data structure is formatted such that all of the standard ASCII characters and some of the extended ASCII characters are encoded into one-byte codes by their associated ASCII code, and those extended ASCII characters whose codes are used in the range reserved for DBCS characters are encoded into a two byte codes, whereby the extended ASCII code is preceded by the escape code. Therefore, the encoding scheme distinguishes the extended ASCII characters in the data strings from the DBCS characters, such that the display management module to can differentiate between normal ASCII character codes and DBCS characters.

Further, the data structure also includes extended ASCII and DBCS font data areas for storing the font data associated with extended ASCII and DBCS characters. This is advantageous because the font data associated with each DBCS character is relatively large and requires added storage. For this reason, in some embodiments, it is advantageous to only store the font data associated with the DBCS characters present in the data strings, thereby minimizing storage space. Additionally, in some instances, the data structure need not contain font data for extended ASCII characters if the extended ASCII characters for the language are displayable with the standard ASCII characters set included in the font module.

As such, in one embodiment of the present invention, the double byte characters of a data string are encoded with unique 16 bit codes that are stored in the string data area. Further, font data associated with the double byte characters is stored in the double byte character font data area, and font data for extended ASCII characters is stored in the extended ASCII font data area, if the extended ASCII character is not displayable with a standard ASCII set in the font module.

As an example, in one embodiment, the double byte characters are sequentially encoded such that the first DBCS character encountered is represented by the two-byte code E100 in hexadecimal, where E0 hexadecimal is the escape code. The remaining unique DBCS characters are encoded with sequential 16 bit code values as they are encountered during the encoding process. Because the DBCS characters are encoded in

the data string area as code values of E100 to FFFF hexadecimal, the extended ASCII characters having ASCII values in the range of E0 to FF hexadecimal must be designated in the data string area such that they are distinguishable from DBCS characters. As such, in this embodiment, the extended ASCII characters having ASCII values in the range of

5 E0 to FF hexadecimal are encoded in the string data area with an escape code of E0 in hexadecimal preceding the ASCII representation of the extended ASCII character.

Further, if the language in which the characters are to be displayed is not displayable with the standard ASCII included in the font module, the font data associated with the extended ASCII characters is stored in the extended ASCII font data area. With respect

10 to the DBCS font data, the font data for each DBCS character located in the data strings is sequentially stored in the DBCS font data area, such that the location of the data in the DBCS font data area corresponds with the two-byte code value associated with DBCS character stored in the data string area.

In operation, to display a data string, the display management module receives the

15 token associated with the data string and the command to display the data string from the computer program. The display management module accesses the location in the string data area where the data string is located and sequentially displays characters of the data string on the display terminal. If a character in the data string is less than E0 hexadecimal, then the character is either a standard ASCII character or an unencoded

20 extended ASCII character. In this instance, the display management module retrieves the ASCII character code stored in the string data area and displays the character on the display terminal. If the data string is equal to E0 hexadecimal, then the next character in the data string is an extended ASCII character having an ASCII code in the range of E0 to FF hexadecimal. In this instance, the display management module retrieves the

25 character code stored in the next byte of the string data area for display. In either case, if the character is an extended ASCII character, it is first determined whether the extended ASCII character is displayable with the standard ASCII character set in the font module. If it is, then the extended ASCII character is displayed using standard ASCII font from the font module. If not, the display management module uses the character code to locate

30 the extended font data stored in the extended ASCII font data area to display the extended ASCII character on the display terminal.

If a character in the data string is E1 hexadecimal or greater, it signals the start of a DBCS character. The display management module takes this value and the next byte to construct a 16-bit code. The display management module subtracts E100 hexadecimal from the 16-bit code and multiplies this value by the pixel display size in bytes of a double byte character. The calculated value represents the location offset of the double byte character font data for the character stored in the double byte character font data area. The display management module uses the calculated value to locate and use the double byte character font data stored in the double byte character font area to display the double byte character on the display terminal.

10 In addition to including data structures containing language data, the present invention may also include data structures containing font data and logo data. For example, as mentioned above, the present invention may include a data structure having a font module stored in a computer-readable medium and associated with the display management module. The font module contains font data for displaying standard ASCII characters. Importantly, by placing the font data for standard ASCII characters in a separate module, the font used to display ASCII characters can be readily changed simply by changing the pointer to the active font module.

20 In some embodiments, the data structure may further include a plurality of font modules each containing font data for displaying ASCII characters in a different font. In this embodiment, the computer program provides an indication to the display management module indicating the selected font for displaying the data string in the form of a pointer to the selected font module. The display management module accesses the font data module associated with the preselected font, locates the font data associated with the ASCII character in the font module and using the font data displays the ASCII character on the display terminal.

25 In one embodiment of the present invention, the data structure may also include a logo module stored in a computer-readable medium and associated with the display management module. In this embodiment, the logo module contains graphical data for display of at least one logo/graphical image. To display the logo, the display management module locates the graphical data associated with the logo in the logo module and using the logo data displays the logo on the display terminal. Further, if the

logo module includes more than one logo, the display management module may display either one, some, or all logos simultaneously. Also, using commands to the display management module, individual logos may be enabled or disabled.

5 In addition to displaying text and logos, the display management module may also be used to display progress bars. For example, in one embodiment, the display management module may display either a gradient progress bar or a filled progress bar as known in the art. The display management module may also display text boxes on the display terminal having a border defining an area on the display terminal. Further, in some embodiments, the display management module may define a scrollable area within the display of the display terminal. In this embodiment, the display management module first defines an area on the display terminal. The display management module displays data within the defined area of the display terminal and can scroll the data displayed within the defined area, while any data displayed on other portions of the display terminal remain at the same position.

15 In addition to providing systems, methods, and computer program products for displaying information from a computer program, the present invention also provides systems, methods, and computer program products for redirecting the output of the computer program to a different display. Specifically, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention provide a method by which all text and graphical images on a host system may be redirected and displayed or represented at a remote location. Importantly, the display management module of the present invention provides commands and data to an external redirection handler module, that when properly interpreted and transmitted, allow for the display of information from the computer program to the remote display.

25 These and other advantages are realized by a system for redirecting the display of information from a computer program to a remote display terminal. The system includes a display management module stored on a computer-readable medium in communication with an output of the computer program and the remote display terminal for displaying data from the computer program on the remote display terminal. Associated with the display management module are data modules stored on a computer-readable medium containing text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information.

Further, connected to the display management module is an output redirection handler stored on a computer-readable medium. A data communication link is connected between the output redirection handler and the remote display terminal. In one embodiment, the system of the present invention further includes a remote display handler stored on a computer-readable medium in electrical connection with the data communication link and the remote display terminal.

In operation, the display management module receives commands to display text and graphical data from the computer program. Based on the commands, the display management module provides commands and text data from the data modules to the output redirection handler for displaying information on the remote display terminal.

As discussed, the data communication link provides a connection between the display management module and the remote display terminal. The data communication link may be a wide variety of data links. For example, in some embodiments, the data communication link may be either a parallel, serial, or network data link. As such, the output redirection handler of the present invention is designed such that it receives commands and data from the display management module and formats the commands and data for transmission across the data communication link depending on the type of communication link.

As detailed above, the display management module outputs commands and data to the output redirection handler for transmission to the remote display terminal. As time is required to transmit data from the output redirection handler to the remote display terminal, including time to convert the data for transmission across the data communication link, it may be advantageous to reduce the amount of data transmitted. For example, there are certain attributes associated with the display on the display terminal. For data updates to the display that do not alter the attributes associated with the display, it may be advantageous to forego resending the attribute with the data. As such, in one embodiment, the remote display handler stores a current attribute value representing an attribute of a current view displayed on the remote display terminal. Thus, subsequent commands to display data on the remote display terminal that do not alter the attribute of the display do not require transmittal of the attribute variable.

Similarly, in most cases, such as when displaying data strings, characters are displayed consecutively in a row. Since the characters are displayed consecutively in a row, it may be advantageous to store the current cursor position at the remote display terminal, such that consecutive characters sent for display do not require the sending of the cursor position for displaying the character. As such, in one embodiment, the remote display handler stores a value representing the current position of a cursor on the remote display terminal, such that subsequent commands to display data on the remote display terminal do not require data concerning cursor position.

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a computer that provides the operating environment for the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention, according to one embodiment.

Figure 2 is a block diagram of an apparatus for managing the display of information output by a computer program on a display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 3 is a block diagram of the operations performed to manage the display of information output by a computer program on a display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of the data structure of language data module that includes the data strings used by the computer program to display information on the display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a block diagram of the operations performed to encode the data strings used by a computer program to display information on a display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 6 is a block diagram of the operations performed to display information encoded in a language data module on a display terminal according to one embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 7 is a block diagram of the data structure of main language data module header that includes string pointers to the location of various language data modules stored in memory according to one embodiment of the present invention.



of text strings, data in the computer program can be replaced by identification numbers called tokens that allow the display management module to locate the text string in the data module. As such, to display information on the display terminal, the computer program outputs to the display management module a command to display a string and the token associated with the data string to be displayed. Based on the token, the display management module retrieves the data string from the data module and displays the data string on the display terminal.

The removal of the text and graphical data from the source code of the computer program provides several advantages. For instance, because the source code of the computer program does not contain the text and graphical data and the fonts associated with the data strings, the overall size of the source code is minimized. Further, as the text and graphical data originally located in the source code of the computer program is now stored in accessible modules, the text and graphical data can be more easily updated. Additionally, in some embodiments, the display management module may be associated with several different language data modules, where each language data module contains the data strings used by the computer program stored in a particular language. In this embodiment, the language with which the data strings are displayed may be changed by merely changing the language data module used by the display management module to display data on the display terminal.

The present invention also provides data structure, methods, and computer programs for storing text and graphical data used by a computer program to display information on a display terminal. Importantly, the present invention provides a data structure in which the data strings used by the computer program are stored and referenced by unique 16 bit identifiers called tokens. The data structure may include not only the 256 ASCII characters displayable with the standard font module, but also a different set of characters in the range 80-FF hexadecimal (referred to as non-standard extended ASCII), if a particular language requires them. The data structure may also include double byte characters (DBCS) that are used for graphical languages, which are two characters wide and are addressed using 16 bit character codes. As such, the data structure supports not only languages that use ASCII and non-standard extended ASCII characters, but also graphical languages, such as Kanji, that use DBCS characters.



with BIOS software program. It must be further understood that the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention are not limited to use with BIOS, but may instead be used with a wide variety of computer programs for management of the display of information on a display terminal.

5           As an example, Figure 1 is a typical computing environment in which the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention may be implemented. Specifically, the computing environment **10** includes a computer **12**. The computer includes a processing unit **14** and memory **16**, (including read only memory (ROM) **18** and random access memory (RAM) **20**), connected to the processing unit by a system bus **22**. The BIOS software **24** for the computer is stored in ROM. The computer also includes a local hard disk drive **26** connected to the system bus via a hard disk drive interface **28**, a floppy disk drive **30** connected to the system bus via a floppy disk drive interface **32**, and a CD-ROM drive **34** connected to the system bus via a CD-ROM interface **36**. Further, connected to the computer is a keyboard **38** connected through a keyboard controller interface **39** and a mouse **40** connected to the system bus via a serial port interface **42**. For displaying data to the user of the computer, a monitor **44** or other kind of display device is connected to the system bus via a video adapter **46**. Additionally, program modules, such as an operating system **48** and application programs **50a-50n**, are stored on the hard disk drive **26**. During operation, these programs may be temporarily stored in RAM.

20           As illustrated below, the present invention provides systems, methods, and computer program products for managing the display of information from a computer program to a display terminal. The system of the present invention includes a display management module and various data modules stored on a computer-readable medium that interacts with a computer program and display terminal. With reference to Figure 1, in instances in which the present invention is implemented to operate with BIOS, the display management module and data modules of the present invention are typically stored in ROM in a compressed form. When initialized, the display management module, as well as the various data modules, are extracted from ROM, decompressed, and stored in RAM. In operation, the system of the present invention receives commands from the BIOS program illustrated in Figure 1. Based on the commands from the computer

program, the system of the present invention displays text and graphical information on the display terminal.

With reference to Figure 2, a system 52 for managing the display of information from a computer program according to one embodiment of the present invention is shown. The system of this embodiment includes a display management module 54, having an input entry point 56 for receiving and transmitting information from a computer program 58, such as the BIOS program 24 illustrated in Figure 1. The computer program provides various commands to the display management module, such as "display string," "display character," "change cursor position," "display graphical image," etc. Connected to the display management module may be several different data modules. Specifically, the system of the present invention may include either one or several data modules, such as either one or several font modules 60, either one or several logo modules 62, a main language module header 64, and either one or several language modules 66. Additionally, the system 52 also includes output 68a for connection to the local display terminal, such as the display terminal 44 shown in Figure 1, and output 68b for connection to a remote display terminal. Importantly, the text and graphical data used by the display management module is located in the data modules.

With reference to Figure 3, in operation, to display information on the display terminal, the computer program sends a command to display information. (See step 100). Based on the command, the display management module accesses the data module including the data to be displayed. (See step 102). The display management module then controls the display terminal to display the information. (See step 104).

Advantageously, because the text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information on the display terminal is located in the data modules, as opposed to the source code of the computer program, the size of the source code is minimized. Further, because the text and graphical data are located in readily accessible modules, the data is more easily updated or altered.

In addition to minimizing the overall size of the source code of the computer program and providing the text and graphical data for updating and alteration, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention also provide for the display of both text and graphical data, display of data strings in different

languages, display of multiple logos, display of progress bars, scrollable text windows, etc.

As discussed, the systems, methods, and computer program products of the present invention also minimize the storage space needed to maintain the text and graphical data in a data module. For example, in one embodiment, the system of the present invention includes a language data module 66 that includes all of the data strings used by the computer program to display information on the display terminal. The data strings are stored in the language data module, and individual tokens are associated with the data strings, such that the data strings can be addressed by the display management module and displayed. In this embodiment, the language data module is an independent and self-contained binary. The language data module can contain ASCII characters in the range 00-07F hexadecimal for the display of alphanumeric characters, herein referred to as "standard ASCII characters." Additionally, the language module may include ASCII characters in the range 80-0FF hexadecimal that include line drawing characters and special characters such as a degree symbol (°) or a check mark (✓), herein referred to as "extended ASCII characters". Further, for some languages, such as the Asian language of Kanji, that are graphical in nature, the language data module includes DBCS characters.

The data structure of the language data module of the present invention provides several advantages. Specifically, each of the characters of each data string is encoded in the language data module, such that the display management module can readily determine whether the character is a standard ASCII character, extended ASCII character, or DBCS character. Additionally, the language data module includes an extended ASCII font area for storing font data for extended ASCII characters that cannot be displayed using the standard font module. Further, the language data module includes a DBCS font area for storing font data for DBCS characters if they are present in the data strings stored in the language data module. Further, in one embodiment of the present invention, the language font data module only includes font data associated with the DBCS characters that appear in the data strings stored in the language data module, thereby minimizing data storage.



With reference to Table 2, the string pointer table includes a list of pointers that identify where each data string is located in memory.

**Table 2**

**String Pointer Table**

Offset	Size	Definition
0000h	WORD	String 0000 pointer (from start of String Pointer Table)
0002h	WORD	String 0001 pointer (from start of String Pointer Table)
(n-1)x2	WORD	String n pointer

As discussed above, the language data module includes all of the data strings that are displayed by the computer program. The data strings stored in the language data module may consist of normal ASCII characters (00-7F hexadecimal), extended ASCII characters (80-FF hexadecimal), or 16 bit DBCS characters (0000-FFFF hexadecimal). Importantly, in choosing an encoding scheme for encoding the characters of the data string, the encoding must be uniform for all language data modules regardless of the different types of characters, (i.e., ASCII, extended ASCII, and DBCS), used to display the language. For example, the same encoding scheme should be used for encoding the characters in a language data module that displays data strings in English as for the characters of a language data module that displays data strings in Kanji, such that the display management module can easily retrieve the data strings, decode, and display them regardless of which language is selected.

In order for the display management module to process data strings for display in the display terminal, the data strings must be encoded in a manner that allows the display management module to differentiate between ASCII character codes and DBCS character codes.

In light of this, in one embodiment of the present invention, the individual characters of the each data string are encoded in the language data module such that standard ASCII characters and most of the extended ASCII characters are represented by their normal one-byte codes, while the remaining extended ASCII characters and all DBCS characters are encoded as two bytes. To further clarify, in order to differentiate between single byte ASCII codes and double byte DBCS codes, a one-byte escape code

is chosen such that all codes above it are used for the encoding of DBCS characters. The escape code itself is used to encode any single extended ASCII characters that may exist in this DBCS range, such that the resulting code is a two-byte value with the escape code preceding the ASCII code for the extended ASCII character. DBCS characters are  
5 encoded with sequential two-byte codes, whereas the first two-byte code consists of the value following the escape code as the first byte and a value of zero as the second byte. Each additional DBCS code is sequentially encoded following the first code value. By lowering or raising the value of the escape code, the number of unique DBCS characters that may be encoded in the language strings can be increased or decreased.

10        Provided below is one example of an encoding scheme for encoding the ASCII extended and DBCS characters in a language data module. This scheme provides a data structure in which the ASCII, extended ASCII, and DBCS characters are encoded, such that the display management module may distinguish the different characters by code. Further, the scheme allows for encoding the standard ASCII characters and some of the  
15 extended ASCII characters with one-byte code values and some of the extended ASCII and DBCS characters with two-byte code values. It must be understood that this is only an example of an encoded scheme for encoding the data strings in the language data module and is merely provided to present a clear understanding of the invention.

20        In this embodiment of the present invention, the escape code is chosen as E0 hexadecimal. In this embodiment, all standard ASCII characters and extended ASCII characters having ASCII code less than E0 hexadecimal are encoded using their one byte ASCII codes. Further, extended ASCII characters having ASCII codes at least as great as E0 hexadecimal are encoded as a two-byte code containing the ASCII code for the extended ASCII character preceded by the escape code E0 hexadecimal. For example,  
25 the extended ASCII value of F8 would be encoded as E0F8. Additionally, the DBCS character codes are encoded sequentially beginning with the two-byte code E100 hexadecimal and spanning to FFFF hexadecimal, giving a DBCS language module access to over 7,900 unique DBCS characters in this example. As such, in this embodiment, a character encoded in the data string area of the language data module having a character  
30 code of E0 hexadecimal indicates that the following byte is an extended ASCII character

in the range E0-FF, and a character code of E1 hexadecimal or greater indicates that the current byte and next byte represent an encoded 16-bit value for a DBCS character.

In addition to including the text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information on the display terminal, the system of the present invention also includes font data for displaying the characters on the display terminal. As such, the computer program is not required to store the font data used to display the text and graphical data. As illustrated in Figure 2, the system of the present invention includes a font data module 60. The font data module includes font data for the standard ASCII and extended ASCII characters. In addition to removing the font data from the computer program, the separation of the font data into an independent module is advantageous for several reasons. First, by maintaining the font data in a separate module, the font with which ASCII characters are displayed may be readily changed. This allows the text displayed on the display terminal to be customized for the user. Further, the system may include a plurality of font modules each having font data for displaying characters in a different font, thereby allowing the computer program to change the font used for displaying the data at will.

Secondly, and important to the data structure of the language data module, is that by maintaining the font data in a separate module, the language data module is not required to store the font data for standard ASCII characters. As such, if there is more than one language data module, such as in the case where there are different language modules for different languages, the font data for standard ASCII characters is located in one storage location, instead of each language data module. Thus, in this embodiment, the language data module need only include font data for the extended ASCII characters not already represented in the standard font data module and font data for DBCS characters.

Specifically, with reference to Figure 4, in one embodiment, the language data module 66 of the present invention includes an extended ASCII font data area 76, (if the language contains extended ASCII characters not supported by the standard font data module), and a DBCS font data area 78, (if the language requires DBCS fonts), for storing font data for extended ASCII and DBCS characters.



The language module header 70, (see Figure 4), for the language data module 66 is configured with the language identification. Additionally, the flag bits are set depending on whether the current language uses non-standard extended ASCII and DBCS characters. Further, the default flag bit is set if the language module is the default language module. (See step 208). The strings are then encoded one at a time in the string data area 74 of the language data module 66. (See step 210). Specifically, for each character in a string, the character is checked to see if the character is a standard ASCII character, (i.e., < 80 hexadecimal). (See step 212). If the character is < 80h, the character is encoded as-is in the string data area, and the system advances to next position in the source string. (See step 214).

However, if the character has an ASCII code  $\geq 80$  hexadecimal, the DBCSFlag located in the header of the module is checked to see if the language associated with the module uses DBCS characters. (See step 216). If the language does not use DBCS characters, (i.e., DBCSFlag = 0), the character is then checked to determine if the character is greater than or equal to the escape code. (See step 218). If the character is in the range of 80 to DF hexadecimal, then the character is an extended ASCII character having an ASCII code that is less than the escape code. In this instance, the character is encoded as-is. (See step 214). However, if the character code is greater than or equal to the "escape code," (in this case E0 hexadecimal), then the escape code is added preceding the character value. Further, both the escape code and character value are stored in the string data area, and the system advances to the next position for processing. (See step 220).

This encoding method is necessary in order to encode single byte extended ASCII characters that are reserved for DBCS token values. In this example of the invention, DBCS codes are assigned values ranging from E100 to FFFF hexadecimal. To encode a single byte greater than or equal to the escape code E0 hexadecimal, the character must be preceded by the escape code. Then, during an actual string display operation, the display management module will know when it encounters the escape code to take the next single byte and use it to display a single ASCII character. Also, if the value to be encoded is E0, it must be preceded by the escape code E0 hexadecimal to indicate that it is a character to be displayed.

The escape code informs the display management module that the character following the escape code is a single byte extended ASCII character. For example, if a data string contains a degree symbol (ASCII code 0F8 hexadecimal), the character will be encoded in the string data area as E0F8 hexadecimal. As such, the character is encoded from a one-byte into a two-byte character with the addition of the escape code.

If the language associated with the language module uses DBCS characters, (see step 222), the character is checked to see if it is a DBCS character. If so, the system determines whether this DBCS code has been previously encountered in a data string and tokenized. (See step 224). If this particular DBCS code has not been previously used, the DBCS character code is assigned to the next available 16 bit code and encoded into the string data area. (See step 226). For example, if the current character is the first DBCS character, then it is encoded as E100 hexadecimal. Similarly, if the current character is the third unique DBCS character to be encoded, it will be encoded as E102 hexadecimal. However, if this DBCS code has been previously encountered and encoded, the DBCS value is replaced with its previously assigned code value and encoded in the string data area, and the system advances to the next position in source string. (See step 228).

The encoding is continued until all characters of the string have been encoded. This is determined by checking whether the current character in the source string is null, as null indicates the end of the data string. (See step 230). If the character in the source string is null, a 0 is placed at the end of the encoded string to allow the display management module to know that the end of the string has been reached when being displayed. (See step 232). Further, the process is continued until all strings have been encoded into the language module. (See step 234 and 236). After all data strings have been encoded, and if the language requires it, (i.e., if ExtendedASCIIFlag=1), the non-standard extended ASCII font data for the language is stored in the extended ASCII font data area of the language module. (See step 238). Or, if the language includes DBCS characters, (i.e., if DBCSFlag=1), the DBCS font table for the DBCS characters found in the data strings are stored in the DBCS font data area of the language module and the building of the language module is completed. (See steps 240 and 242). As discussed above, the font data associated with each DBCS character is sequentially stored in the

DBCS font data area corresponding the two-byte encoded value stored in the data string area and the size of the font data for a DBCS character.

As illustrated in Figure 2, the present invention provides a system for managing the information displayed by a computer program. With reference to Figure 6, a method for displaying a data string requested by a computer program using a language data module that has been created using the encoding scheme discussed above is illustrated. Specifically, as the computer program operates, it will encounter source code for which the computer program is to display a data string to a display terminal. The source code of this embodiment does not include the data string, but instead includes identification number or token. The computer program outputs the token and a string display command to the input 56 of the display management module 54. (See step 300). The display management module uses an internal pointer to the current active language module 66 to access the language module header 70. (See step 302). From the header, the display management module locates the pointer indicating the storage address of the string pointer table 72. (See step 304). Based on the token from the computer program, the display management module locates the pointer from the string pointer table addressing the storage location of the string associated with the token. (See step 306).

After the string is located, the display management module processes the string character by character and displays each character until a null character is reached, indicating the end of the string. (See steps 308 and 310). For each character, the display management module checks to see if the character is a normal ASCII character(00 to 7F hexadecimal, (see step 312),) or an extended ASCII character having an ASCII code less than the escape code, (i.e., 80-DF hexadecimal, (see step 316)), or an extended ASCII character having a value equal to or greater than the escape code, (i.e., E0-FF hexadecimal), (see step 314), or a 16 bit DBCS character (E100-FFFF hexadecimal). (See step 316).

If the character is a normal ASCII character, (i.e., less than 80 hexadecimal), the display management module uses the character code stored in the data string and the standard ASCII font module to display the character and increments to the next character. (See steps 318 and 320).

000001 E F 5 9 6 0

If the character is an extended ASCII character having an ASCII code value less than the escape code, (i.e., greater than 80, and less than E0), (see step 316), the display management module first determines whether language module includes nonstandard extended ASCII characters based on whether flag ExtendedASCIIFlag is set to 1 in the language module header, (see Table 3). (See step 324). If the language module uses its own set of extended ASCII characters, the display management module uses the character code stored in the data string to look up and use the extended ASCII information stored in the extended ASCII font data area 76 to display the character. (See step 326). If the language module does not require a special set of extended ASCII characters, the display management module uses the character code and standard font table to display the character. (See step 318).

If the character is equal to the escape code, (i.e., in this case = E0 hexadecimal), it will consist of two bytes; one byte equaling the escape code E0 hexadecimal and a second byte including the character. If the first byte equals the escape code, (see step 316), the display management module advances to the next byte that includes the character value. (See step 322). The display management module next determines whether the language module includes nonstandard extended ASCII characters based on whether flag ExtendedASCIIFlag is set to 1 in the language module header, (see Table 3). (See step 324). If the language module uses its own set of extended ASCII characters, the display management module uses the character code stored in the data string to look up and use the extended ASCII information stored in the extended ASCII font data area 76 to display the character. (See step 326). If the language module does not require a special set of extended ASCII characters, the display management module uses the character code and standard font table to display the character. (See step 318).

If the character is in the range of E1-FF hexadecimal, it signals the start of a DBCS character (E100-FFFF hexadecimal), (see step 316), and will consist of two bytes that form a 16-bit character code. (See step 328). To locate the font data for a particular DBCS character, the display management module subtracts E100 hexadecimal from the 16-bit character code. Additionally, the display management module multiplies the subtracted value by the font pixel size in bytes of a double byte character. The multiplied value corresponds to the location offset of the DBCS font information stored in the

DBCS font data area 78 for the DBCS character. (See step 330). The process is continued until all characters in the data string have been displayed.

In addition to minimizing storage space and making the text and graphic data used by the computer program accessible for updating or alteration, the present invention also provides a system for displaying text in different languages. In this embodiment, the system includes a plurality of language data modules, each containing the language data displayed by the computer program translated into a different language. For each language data module, the corresponding data strings are associated with the same token number. In this embodiment, the language in which the data string associated with the token is displayed is controlled by choosing which language data module to extract the data string associated with the token.

Specifically, with reference to Figure 2, in this embodiment of the present invention, the system includes a plurality of language data modules 66, where each module includes the data strings stored in a selected language and a main language module header 64 to assist in locating which language to display the information from the computer program. Figure 7 illustrates the main language module header. Specifically, the main language module header 64 serves to provide the display management module 54 with pointers to each of the different language modules that may be present. As illustrated, the main language module header 64 includes a header 80 and a language module pointer table 82. The header 80 includes information related to a signature identifying the header as the main language module header, the identification of the default language, (such as English), pointer to the location of the language module pointer table 82 in memory, and the total number of languages present. The header is illustrated below in Table 3 according to one embodiment of the present invention.

**Table 3**  
**Header**

Offset	Size	Definition
0000h	DWORD	signature to identify presence of header
0004h	WORD	2 letter country code of default language module
0006h	WORD	16 bit offset to language module pointer table (from offset 0000h of the main header)
0008h	WORD	number of languages present











display associated with the system and minimizes the amount of data transmitted to the target system, thereby optimizing the speed of the display. In order to display accurately the output from the computer program, the output redirection handler must accurately interpret the display management module command set as received from the display management module. Then, after the output redirection handler has properly interpreted the commands from the display management module, the output redirection handler may transmit data and/or commands to the remote display handler in any desired manner.

If on the other hand, the output redirection handler merely transmits the command/data from the display management module to the remote display handler without alteration, then the remote display handler should be designed to: 1) receive data via the required transmission method and 2) interpret the commands and the data to output the information to the remote display terminal. As such, the remote display handler associated with the target system should be programmed to perform the necessary tasks as requested by the command and data from the display management module.

As detailed above, the display management module outputs commands and data to the output redirection handler for display on the remote display terminal. As time is required to transmit data from the output redirection handler to the remote display terminal, including time to convert the data for transmission across the data communication link, it may be advantageous to reduce the amount of data transmitted. For example, there are certain attributes associated with the display on the display terminal. For data updates to the display that do not alter the attributes associated with the display, it may be advantageous to forego resending the attribute with the data. As such, in one embodiment, the remote display handler stores a current attribute value representing the color attribute of the characters being displayed on the remote display terminal. Thus, subsequent commands to display data on the remote display terminal that do not alter the attribute of the display do not require transmittal of the attribute variable.

Similarly, in some instances, characters are displayed consecutively in a row on the remote display terminal. Since the characters are displayed consecutively, it may be advantageous to store the current cursor position at the remote display terminal, such that consecutive characters sent for display do not require the sending of the cursor position for displaying the character. As such, in one embodiment, the remote display handler

stores a value representing the current position of a cursor on the remote display terminal such that subsequent commands to display data on the remote display terminal do not require data concerning cursor position.

In addition to providing systems and methods, the present invention also provides computer program products for managing the display of information from a computer program on a display terminal. Further, the present invention provides computer program products for creating a language module to store data strings used by a display management module to display information on a display terminal and computer program products for redirecting the display of information from a computer program to a remote display terminal. With reference to Figure 2, the computer readable storage medium may be part of the ROM 22 or RAM 20, and the processor 14 of the present invention may implement the computer readable program code means as discussed in the various embodiments above.

In one embodiment, the present invention provides computer program products for managing the display of information from a computer program on a display terminal. In this embodiment of the present invention, the computer-readable medium includes first computer instruction means for providing on a computer-readable medium data modules containing text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information on the display terminal. In this embodiment, tokens are associated with the data strings located in the data modules. The computer-readable medium also includes second computer instruction means for receiving a string display command and a token output by the computer program to display data associated with the token on the display terminal. Further, the computer-readable medium includes a third computer instruction means for retrieving the data associated with the token from the data modules, and fourth computer instruction mean for displaying the data associated with the tokens on the display terminal. Importantly, in this embodiment, storage of the text and graphical data in the data modules eliminates the requirement that the text and graphical data for displaying information on the display terminal be contained in the computer program.

In another embodiment, the present invention provides computer program products for creating a language module to store data strings used by a display management module to display information on a display terminal. In this embodiment of

the present invention, the computer-readable medium includes first computer instruction means for analyzing each character of each data string, where each character is a character selected from the group consisting of standard ASCII, extended ASCII, and double byte character. The computer-readable medium of the present invention further includes second computer instruction means for encoding characters in the data strings that are extended ASCII and double byte characters and third computer instruction means for creating a string data area in a range of memory addresses in the computer-readable medium. Further, the computer-readable medium further includes fourth computer instruction means for storing the data strings in the string data area. In this embodiment, the fourth computer instruction means stores characters that are standard ASCII characters and extended ASCII characters having ASCII codes less than E0 hexadecimal in the string data area by their ASCII representations. Further, the fourth computer instruction means stores extended ASCII characters that are greater than or equal to E0 hexadecimal as a two-byte code with the ASCII character preceded by the escape code E0 hexadecimal and DBCS characters in the string data area by two-byte codes sequentially encoded from E100 to FFFF hexadecimal.

In still another embodiment, the present invention provides computer program products for redirecting the display of information from a computer program to a remote display terminal. In this embodiment, the computer program product includes a computer-readable medium having first computer instruction means for providing on a computer-readable medium data modules containing text and graphical data used by the computer program to display information on the remote display terminal. The computer-readable medium further includes second computer instruction means for receiving a command to display text and graphical data from the computer program and third computer instruction means for retrieving data associated with the command from the data modules. To display the information on a remote display terminal, the computer-readable medium further includes fourth computer instruction means for outputting commands and text and graphical data from the data modules for display and fifth computer instruction means for redirecting the commands and text and graphical data representations to the remote display terminal, where a sixth computer instruction means displays the text and graphical data representations on the remote display terminal.

In this regard, Figures 2-10 are block diagrams, flowcharts and control flow illustrations of methods, systems and program products according to the invention. It will be understood that each block or step of the block diagram, flowchart and control flow illustrations, and combinations of blocks in the block diagram, flowchart and control flow illustrations, can be implemented by computer program instructions. These computer program instructions may be loaded onto a computer or other programmable apparatus to produce a machine, such that the instructions which execute on the computer or other programmable apparatus create means for implementing the functions specified in the block diagram, flowchart or control flow block(s) or step(s). These computer program instructions may also be stored in a computer-readable memory that can direct a computer or other programmable apparatus to function in a particular manner, such that the instructions stored in the computer-readable memory produce an article of manufacture including instruction means which implement the function specified in the block diagram, flowchart or control flow block(s) or step(s). The computer program instructions may also be loaded onto a computer or other programmable apparatus to cause a series of operational steps to be performed on the computer or other programmable apparatus to produce a computer implemented process such that the instructions which execute on the computer or other programmable apparatus provide steps for implementing the functions specified in the block diagram, flowchart or control flow block(s) or step(s).

Accordingly, blocks or steps of the block diagram, flowchart or control flow illustrations support combinations of means for performing the specified functions, combinations of steps for performing the specified functions and program instruction means for performing the specified functions. It will also be understood that each block or step of the block diagram, flowchart or control flow illustrations, and combinations of blocks or steps in the block diagram, flowchart or control flow illustrations, can be implemented by special purpose hardware-based computer systems which perform the specified functions or steps, or combinations of special purpose hardware and computer instructions.

Many modifications and other embodiments of the invention will come to mind to one skilled in the art to which this invention pertains having the benefit of the teachings

